



# Department of Justice

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District of Montana

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## **MONTANA MAN SENTENCED FOR RECEIPT AND POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

BILLINGS – John Ulmer, a 42-year-old resident of Townsend, was sentenced today to a term of 60 months in federal prison in connection with his guilty plea to receipt and possession of child pornography. Ulmer was also ordered to pay a special assessment of \$100, forfeit his computer equipment, and will be under supervision for 10 years

In an Offer of Proof filed by the United States, the government stated it would have proved at trial the following:

Agents with the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) were investigating allegations that various persons in the United States had purchased child pornography from Internet websites. One investigation involved a credit card belonging to Ulmer which showed that on three occasions between February of 2003 and January of 2005, Ulmer had purchased access to child pornography websites.

On July 10, 2005, ICE agents contacted Ulmer at his residence in Helena. Ulmer admitted that his computer contained images of children approximately twelve to fourteen years old in sexual poses. Ulmer further admitted that he had been viewing child pornography on the Internet for approximately 3 years, using the websites and file sharing programs. Ulmer's computer was seized and forensically evaluated.

Found during the examination were numerous items of child pornography that Ulmer had received and possessed via the Internet during 2003-2005. Ulmer possessed hundreds of images, including children clearly prepubescent and children engaged in sadistic or masochistic abuse, or other depictions of violence.

Because there is no parole in the federal system, the "truth in sentencing" guidelines mandate that Ulmer will likely serve **all** of the time imposed by the court. In the federal system, Ulmer does have the opportunity to earn a sentence reduction for "good behavior." However, this reduction will not exceed 15% of the overall sentence.

The investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant United States Attorney Marcia K. Hurd prosecuted the case.

"This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General

Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys' Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov/](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov/)."

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